

Philippines Buyers Optimistic About Future

Peterson Heads Asian Mission Seeking Foreign Buyers For USA Agricultural Products

The Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Cary G. Peterson, promoted American agricultural products to Asia's top grocery store food buyers during an 11-day mission to four Pacific Rim countries. Peterson is the newly elected President of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA).

Peterson, along with a contingent from NASDA and the Food Marketing Institute (FMI) met with major retailing and wholesaling associations in the Republic of China (Taiwan), Hong Kong, China and the Philippines. Company food buyers were invited to attend the FMI/U.S. Food Export Showcase in Chicago, May 2 - 4, 1999. The showcase puts states' agricultural products on sale before some 6,000 international and national food buyers. Last year the showcase generated potential sales contracts valued at \$45 million. Utah estimates its contacts at the showcase generated \$6 million in overseas sales.

"In most of the countries we visited there was optimism for economic improvement and the hope for more trading with American exporters," said Commissioner Peterson.

The NASDA/FMI contingent met with the US ambassador to the Philippines who said the Philippine economy is beginning to strengthen and there are opportunities for US food exports.

"Throughout that region, people craved US beef, vegetables and fruit," said UDAF Marketing Director, Randy Parker. "There is a tremendous market for our products there," he added.

One of the barriers facing US exporters is the strong American dollar. Its value overseas has caused the price of US goods to increase by 40 percent. Foreign countries also place tariffs on imported goods. One of Commissioner Peterson's goals as NASDA president is to level the import/export playing field for US farmers and ranchers by removing foreign tariffs on certain US good.



The China Post Newspaper reported on the NASDA/FMI trade contingent arrival in Taiwan.
from left: Randy Parker, Director, UDAF's Marketing and Conservation Division; Cary Peterson, UDAF Commissioner of Agriculture and Food; Kathleen Trepper, Vice President, FMI; DeWitt Ashby, NASDA, USFES Director.

DECEMBER 1998



Peterson Leads Asian Trade Mission



Pesticide Survey Begins In 1999



Burgess Honored by UFB

Something to be Thankful for

This is the time of year when we give thanks for the bounty we have at our tables, and for the bounty we have in our lives. I would like to tell you all how thankful I am for the efforts and accomplishments you have all made this year. Our Wildlife Services people were honored twice this year for the excellent management and execution of their program. Our Administrative Services, as well as Animal and Plant Industries, Regulatory and Marketing and Conservation and Chemistry give me much to be thankful for as well. Our state economy continues to grow and we all share in the bounty that comes with that good news. Let's keep up our good work as we move into the new year and new century.

Commissioner Cary Peterson

Pesticide Record Keeping Survey To Begin In 1999

A national survey, intended to strengthen Utah agriculture's good record of proper pesticide use will get underway in 1999. The survey will check 100 Utah farmers' pesticide record keeping practices on restricted-use pesticides as part of a program intended to protect the Utah environment, consumers and the farmer.


"The survey was designed to help food producers conform to federal regulations requiring record-keeping of restricted use pesticides (RUP)--pesticides that must be applied by a person certified by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food," said Dick Wilson, director of Plant Industry. The overall goal is to monitor the amounts of chemicals being applied to farmland.

Beginning in the Spring of 1999, plant industry inspectors will visit 100 Utah farms to check on nine areas of record keeping. Utah has more than 2,700 private applicators certified to buy and apply the more hazardous chemicals available for controlling insects, weeds, rodents and other pests.

UDAF employees are conducting the surveys under a contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Similar studies are being conducted in numerous other states around the country.

Wilson explained that federal regulations call for farmers to record nine types of data for each RUP application: Date, applicator's name, certification number, crop or commodity treated, field identification, pesticide name, EPA registration number for each pesticide, total amount of pesticide applied, and total number of acres treated.

The state also urges farmers to record weather conditions at the time of treatment -wind direction and velocity - climate conditions such as rainfall, and other details. Farmers who keep careful records for



State of Utah
Department of Agriculture and Food
Services: News | Saving Farmland | Food Safety | Contact Us | Search | Home

Of Prime Interest
Managing The Risk Of Today's Agriculture:
Utah farmers and ranchers have a rare opportunity to protect their agri business by attending one of 13 Risk Management seminars scheduled for early 1999.
Click [here](#) for more information.

UDAF's Wildlife Services Program was honored by Governor Michael Leavitt, receiving the 1998 Quality Service Award during the recent Governor's Conference for Planning and Excellence.
Click [here](#) for details.

Our Mission:
The mission of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food is to insure a high-quality, safe, readily available, and sustained supply of food and fiber for the citizens of the State of Utah.

NASDA 1999
Product of Utah

The UDAF web page has a new format. Take a look when you can. Some pages and links are still under construction.
www.ag.state.ut.us

Deputy Comm. Burgess Honored By UFB At 1998 State Convention



(left: Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Van Burgess receives the Utah Farm Bureau Federation's "Friend of Agriculture" award from President Ken Ashby during the 1998 UFB State Convention in Salt Lake City, Nov. 20.

The recognition was presented as a token of appreciation for the great service Burgess offers to Utah farmers and ranchers. The UFB praised Burgess for his skill as an administrator and as one who has great knowledge of the agriculture industry and who is very valuable to the citizenry of the state.

Burgess is a 30 year Utah Department of Agriculture and Food employee. He first began as a field inspector, then division director of Plant Industry and Marketing and Conservation. He has served the past nine years as Deputy Commissioner.

Burgess is a graduate of Brigham Young University